

UPDATE



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

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OAC Hosts Reception for New Minister

Artists and arts representatives squeezed into the new Dancemakers studio last November to meet the **Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Culture**, at one of her first arts events since her provincial appointment. OAC invited some 400 artists and representatives of the arts community to the reception at the revitalized downtown Distillery district. Few other Toronto sites are home to as many members of the arts community. The Artscape building, which houses Dancemakers, also has Caliban Arts, Bravo-Sud, Mariposa in the Schools, Native Earth, Prologue, Nightwood Theatre, Queen of Puddings, Tapestry New Opera, and individual artists' studios in its space.

In her remarks, the Minister emphasized the need for a stable source of funding for the arts and spoke about the government's plan to establish a Minister's Advisory Council for Arts and Culture.



Members of the arts community surround the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Culture, at a reception held in her honour on November 20, 2003 at Dancemakers's studio in Toronto's Distillery district.

(Photo: David Sweeney)

HIGHLIGHTS

- OAC Hosts Reception for New Minister
- New Multi-Arts Projects Program
- KW Strategic Plan Information Session
- Northern Outreach
- Aboriginal Dance Sounding
- 40th Anniversary Report
- Board News
- Tom Hill Receives Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts
- Arts Notes
- Staffing Update
- Spotlight
- 2004 Program Deadlines

New Multi-Arts Projects Program and Revision to the Community Arts Organizations Program

OAC has created a new **Multi-Arts Projects** program to support professional artists (individuals and groups) and emerging organizations that wish to create, produce, and/or present multi-disciplinary work. It also supports a wide-range of artistic practices including those in culturally diverse, Aboriginal and Francophone communities. Organizations

that undertake professional development initiatives of benefit to the multi-arts community are eligible as well. The deadlines are **May 3, 2004**, and **October 1, 2004**.

OAC's Community Arts Organizations program and the Multidisciplinary Festivals program have been merged to

create the **Community and Multi-Arts Organizations Program**. This program provides operating and annual grants to community arts councils, arts and cultural centres (with artistic mandates), festival organizations, and arts service organizations across the province. The next deadline is **March 15, 2005**.

Board News

OAC's board of directors met in **Ottawa** last November, in keeping with our tradition of hosting at least one board meeting a year outside of Toronto. The occasion also allowed us to have an information session on our strategic plan with members of the arts community in Ottawa and surrounding communities. Our host was the affable Jean Malavoy, newly appointed Executive Director of the Canadian Conference for the Arts, but then Director of *La Nouvelle Scène*, home to four French-language theatre companies, Le Théâtre du Trillium, Le Théâtre de la Vieille 17, La Compagnie Vox Théâtre, and Le Théâtre la Catapulte.

Following the information session, board members attended a performance of *Marion Bridge* at the **Great Canadian Theatre Company**.



Members of OAC board and staff on the bus after a strategic plan information session in Ottawa on November 26, 2003.

(Photo: Pat Bradley)

Tom Hill Recipient of Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts

Congratulations to our Brantford board member, **Tom Hill**! He was recently awarded one of the prestigious Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts. A Konadaha Seneca artist, Tom was Canada's first Aboriginal art curator. In addition to his own creative work, Tom has been a tireless advocate for Aboriginal artists through his participation on many boards and committees. Tom is the museum director at the Woodland Cultural Centre.

Farewells

The terms of two OAC board members are winding down. April will mark Windsor representative and Vice-Chair Doug Lawson's last board meeting. Toronto rep Sally Brenzel's last meeting will be in June. Both Doug and Sally will have served two three-year terms. They have been tremendously energetic and dedicated to their roles, often going out of their way to ensure their communities were well-served. Doug hosted the June 2002 board meeting in Windsor. This included a reception for more than 60 of OAC's colleagues and community members at the Art Gallery of Windsor's new space. Doug served as the board's Vice-Chair and Chair of the Governance Committee.

Sally's commitment to Toronto's arts community meant that she attended as many arts events as possible in the city, often representing her out-of-town colleagues. Over six years, she showed great interest and respect for OAC's peer review process. Most recently Sally has been Chair of the board's Management and Compensation Committee.

Strategic Plan Information Session in Kitchener-Waterloo

Kitchener-Waterloo board member **Doug Brock** was joined by OAC's **John Brotman** and **Billyann Balay**, for our December 19 strategic plan information session in Kitchener. Held in Theatre & Co.'s lovely King Street space, the event drew about 75 arts community members from Kitchener-Waterloo, Hamilton, Guelph, London, and many points in between. John presented the background and context that developed OAC's four goals and their specific strategies. At the end, all three took questions from the audience that focused on how these goals and strategies relate to the granting programs.

The day was capped by a performance by the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra dedicated to OAC's 40th anniversary.

Aboriginal Dance Soundings

Myles Warren, Dance Officer, and **Cynthia Lickers-Sage**, Acting Aboriginal Arts Officer, hosted a round-table discussion last November with several Aboriginal dancers and dancemakers from across the province. This was a first step in examining the state of the field in both traditional and contemporary Aboriginal dance. The group discussed issues and made recommendations. Over the coming months, Myles and Cynthia will conduct one-on-one interviews with Aboriginal dancers and choreographers. This next phase will include those individuals who participated in the November roundtable and dance professionals who were unable to attend the November meeting. The aim is to examine how OAC programs can better support Aboriginal dance in Ontario.

Outreach Activities in the North

Cynthia Lickers-Sage, Acting Aboriginal Arts Officer, and **Jay Pitter**, Arts Education Officer, embarked on northern outreach activities in March to meet with Aboriginal artists and artist educators.

Jay and Arts Education Program Assistant **Lindy Chan** spent time in Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay hosting interactive artist sessions that involved lively discussion and actual art-making. These events were followed by one-on-one meetings, sometimes taking place in unusual spots such as ice huts or the local pancake shop.

After the Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay leg of the trip, Cynthia went on to visit Kenora and Sioux Lookout, where she was a guest on Wawatay radio. The broadcast included simultaneous interpretation into Ojibway. In each of the four communities, Aboriginal artists were invited to attend a social and talk to Cynthia about their work and whether they would be eligible for OAC arts programs.

In preparation for the tour, OAC contracted **Joahanna Berti**, De-ba-jeh-mu-jig Theatre's dynamic Outreach and Training Director, to help connect with artists who do not usually apply to OAC's granting programs. The Manitoulin Island theatre group is widely respected for its work in Ontario's isolated northern Aboriginal communities. Over the next few months, there will be other outreach initiatives involving Joahanna's expertise.

40th Anniversary Report

OAC's 40th anniversary year is winding down. Over the past year, a number of OAC-funded arts organizations have been our **ambassadors** helping us celebrate this important 40-year mark. These organizations used a variety of opportunities to remind audiences of the importance of public funding to the arts. These took the form of program inserts, performance dedications, messages in newsletters, speeches at openings, among others. We would like to thank the following ambassadors who have in some way noted OAC's 40th anniversary.

Art Gallery of Hamilton
Ballet Jörgen Canada
Canadian Opera Company
The Canadian Stage Company
De-ba-jeh-mu-jig Theatre Group
Éditions Prise de parole
Esprit Orchestra
George R. Gardiner Museum of Ceramics
Gloucester Arts Council
Harbourfront Centre
Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra
London Committee for Cross Cultural Arts Inc.
MacLaren Art Centre

Magnus Theatre Company
Myths and Mirrors
National Ballet School
Opera Atelier
Shaw Festival
The Stratford Shakespearean Festival
Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra
Théâtre français de Toronto
Thunder Bay Art Gallery
Toronto Symphony Orchestra
Windsor Symphony Orchestra

Throughout the year, OAC's anniversary Web site featured a selected artist from each arts sector and a different Ontario region. We would like to thank the following artists, each of whose profiles may still be seen at www.arts.on.ca:

Kiran Ahluwalia • Nalo Hopkinson • Maryanne Barkhouse • Peter Hatch
Kai Chan • Daniel Marchildon • Jennifer Garrett • Michael Miller
John Greyson • Lata Pada • Adrian Göllner • Santee Smith



The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Culture, greets Daniel Weinzeig, son of Canadian composer John Weinzeig (in the background with TSO's Mike Forrester, V.P. Marketing & Development) at a reception hosted by OAC and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. The TSO's February 18th concert featured John Weinzeig's Symphonic Ode conducted by fellow Canadian Victor Feldbrill. The concert marked the respective 90th and 80th birthdays of John Weinzeig and Victor Feldbrill and was dedicated to OAC's 40th anniversary.

(Photo: Glenn Hodgins)

Policy Change for Audit Requirements

OAC has changed its policy requirements for audited financial statements. All organizations applying for operating or annual grants **over \$20,000** are required to provide audited financial statements. Those making operating or annual requests of **\$20,000 and under** may continue to submit unaudited financial statements that include a balance sheet and a statement of income and expenses. Organizations applying for project grants of **\$20,000 and under** are not required to provide financial statements of any kind. This change is effective immediately.

Police Checks for Everyone Working in Ontario Schools

A change to the provincial Education Act came into effect a few months ago. Anyone who works in direct contact with Ontario students must undergo a police record check. This includes artists working within the province's school system. The four provincial school board associations (public, Catholic, English, and French) have established the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC) to conduct the police record checks. A \$25 fee charged to each individual will cover the cost of the screening.

If the verification determines that there is no police record or that the individual does not pose a risk to students, OESC will issue a wallet-sized identification card that will be valid for the school year. The card will have to be presented with another piece of ID when artists begin working at the school. This new policy will also affect arts organizations that perform in the schools or conduct student workshops. Artists will have to ensure that they have built into their school schedules the time needed for the OESC to conduct the police check (approximately 15 working days). Arts organizations will have to contact OESC directly to obtain the forms for service providers.

OAC will obtain copies of the Police Record Disclosure Consent Form and the Payment Form and include it in the Artist in Education grant notification letters. Copies of these forms for individual artists will be available upon request from OAC reception. We are also looking into creating a Web link with the OESC to allow artists easy access to the form.

For more information, contact **Jay Pitter**, Arts Education Officer, at 416-969-7428 or 1-800-387-0058 ext. 7428. If you would like to contact OESC directly, they can be reached by fax at 416-593-7858 or by e-mail at oesc-cseo@opsba.org.

Arts Notes

OAC now has a long-awaited feature on its Web site (www.arts.on.ca). As of last fall, grant results are posted about five months following the deadline date. Go to the **Lists of Recipients** section of the OAC Web site and search by deadline date for results.

OAC's busy research team has already posted a number of reports on the research section of the site. Recent additions have included an *ArtFacts* on the status of women in Ontario theatre, and reports produced by Hill Strategies Research Inc. for the Ontario Arts Council and other government partners. The Hill Strategies publications include reports on attendance at the performing arts and art galleries and museums; consumer spending on culture; donors to arts and culture organizations; and arts and culture volunteers.



Cynthia Lickers Sage, Acting Aboriginal Arts Officer and Kelly Langgard, Acting Associate Visual and Media Arts Officer, offer OAC 40th birthday cupcakes to audience members at intermission during the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's February 18th concert.

(Photo: Glenn Hodgins)

Staffing Update

OAC has enhanced its focus on research by creating a new role for **Pat Bradley** and hiring a Research Analyst, **Michael Choo**.

Pat Bradley adds the role of **Research Manager** to her responsibilities as OAC's Theatre Officer. She will oversee the internal and external research needs of the Ontario Arts Council. Pat was the Executive Director of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) from July 1992 until she joined OAC in April 2001.

A senior arts administrator, she has taught cultural policy, strategic planning, and arts administration, at both the University of Toronto and Humber College. Pat was President of the Canadian Conference of the Arts (CCA) and served on numerous volunteer arts boards, including the 12 Alexander Street Theatre Project and STAF (Small Theatre Administrative Facility).

Michael Choo is the new Research Analyst at the Ontario Arts Council. He will undertake quantitative and qualitative research projects, and analyze grants statistics. Previously, Michael was Director of Membership and Directories at DXNet Inc., a subsidiary of the Design Exchange.

During his time with DXNet Inc., Michael managed network services and administration, and directed the creation of the Advanced Visualization Centre – a 25-seat virtual reality theatre with a 24-foot immersive screen. His efforts also secured a total of \$5 million to develop various projects, such as the creation of an e-commerce Web portal for the Canadian design community.

Michael's expertise ranges from database design and management, as well as budgeting and business plan development. He graduated from University of Toronto with a B.A. in Arts Administration.

OAC has promoted long-time Associate Music Officer **Arlene Loney** to the position of **Popular and World Music Officer** in response to the extraordinary growth and diversity in Ontario's music communities.

Music Officer David G. H. Parsons' title will change to **Classical Music Officer**. David will now be responsible for all the programs in the classical music area, including contemporary classical genres.

Thirteen years ago, Arlene was instrumental in establishing OAC's Popular Music program – the first program of its kind across Canada to support songwriters and composers in the creation and production of their work in all popular music genres. Since then Arlene has worked diligently to expand the reach of the popular music program to a broader range of Ontario's cultural communities.

After three years of dividing her time between her art and her work as Associate Visual and Media Arts Officer, **Annette Manguard** is returning to being a full-time filmmaker. Annette has done a remarkable job of building OAC's relationships with artists, primarily in the film and video community. We also want to thank her for her leadership in our recent partnership initiatives with TVO, in particular for the 40 short

films by filmmakers Jennifer Baichwal and Nick de Pencier profiling the work of artists funded by OAC over the past 40 years.

Replacing Annette on a part-time contract as Associate Visual and Media Arts Officer is **Anne-Marie Bénéteau**, a former OAC staff member. Anne-Marie will provide support to the Visual and Media Arts sector until November.

Spotlight

Dance is one of the hardest art forms to move around the province. Two OAC-funded dance companies have been doing an exceptional job in this regard. Kudos to Ballet Jörgen Canada and the Canadian Children's Dance Theatre (CCDT), both of which have undertaken extensive tours over the past few months.

Before the season is over, Ballet Jörgen Canada will have performed 131 times in 74 communities to more than 100,000 people throughout Canada and the U.S. In Ontario alone they have visited Hamilton, Nepean, Kitchener, London, Thunder Bay, Kirkland Lake, Sault Ste. Marie, Parry Sound, Chatham, Windsor and other communities.

CCDT was founded in 1980 to provide talented young dancers (up to the age of 19) with performance opportunities. In 2002, CCDT identified a dual gap that needed to be addressed. Not only were teenage dance audiences not being reached but emerging young adult contemporary dancers were lacking in performance opportunities. Enter TILT sound+motion, CCDT's off-shoot for dance artists in their early 20s. This season, CCDT toured its programs to over 100 Ontario towns and cities. Because the seating capacity in the smaller venues limits participation in the single performances or workshops, this year CCDT and TILT have focused on week-long residencies in 700-plus-seat theatres. This has allowed them to increase their audiences to between 3,000 and 7,000 per residency.

Ontario Arts Council 2004 Program Deadlines

NOTE: Grants for individuals are indicated by ▲ Grants for organizations are indicated by ● New Program or New Deadline *

The following is a list of 2004 deadlines only. A list of 2005 program deadlines will be issued at a later date.

ABORIGINAL ARTS

Aboriginal Artists in Education	May 17, 2004 & Oct 15, 2004	▲ ●
Aboriginal Arts Projects	Sept 15, 2004	▲ ●

ARTS EDUCATION

Projects	Nov 1, 2004	▲ ●
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CHALMERS PROGRAM

Professional Development	June 15, 2004	▲
Arts Fellowships	June 15, 2004	▲

COMMUNITY & MULTI ARTS

Artists in the Community/Workplace	Sept 15, 2004	▲ ●
Integrated Arts	Nov 1, 2004	▲ ●
*Multi-Arts Projects	May 3, 2004 & Oct 1, 2004	▲ ●

COMPASS

June 15, 2004, Sept 15, 2004, Dec 15, 2004	●
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DANCE

Dance Initiatives	Oct 1, 2004	▲ ●
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FRANCO-ONTARIAN ARTS

(Programs only available in French)

Songs and Music	Nov 1, 2004	▲
Literature	Dec 1, 2004	▲

LITERATURE

(Programs only available in English)

Periodicals	June 1, 2004	●
Works in Progress	July 15* & Dec 1, 2004*	▲

Writers' Reserve

On-going deadlines from October 2004 to February 2005.
Program administered by third-party recommenders.
For more information, contact OAC.

MUSIC

Popular Music	June 15, 2004 & Dec 15, 2004	▲
Commissioning	Oct 1, 2004	▲ ●
Recording Program for Classical Music	Oct 1, 2004	▲ ●
Presenter/Producer - Festivals	Nov 1, 2004	●

THEATRE

(Programs only available in English)

Theatre Projects	Aug 3, 2004	▲ ●
Theatre Organizations		
- Summer Theatres	Nov 1, 2004	●

TOURING AND OUTREACH

Touring and Collaborations	Oct 1, 2004	▲ ●
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VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS

Artists' Film and Video	Oct 1, 2004	▲
Grants to Craft Artists	Aug 16, 2004	▲
Craft Organizations		
- Operating	June 1, 2004	●
- Projects	June 1, 2004	●
Visual and Media Arts Projects	June 15, 2004	●
Emerging Artists: Film and Video		
	Dec 15, 2004	▲
Grants to Visual Artists		
Mid-Career Artist (\$5,000)	Sept 15, 2004	▲
Senior Artist (\$10,000)	May 17, 2004	▲
Public Art Galleries		
- Operating	May 17, 2004	●
- Projects	May 17, 2004	●
Exhibition Assistance		▲
On-going deadlines from July 2004 to February 2005. Program administered by third-party recommenders.		

Questions or comments about UPDATE are welcome. Please contact Kirsten Gunter, OAC Communications Manager at kgunter@arts.on.ca

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